

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
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AMEMBASSY JIDDA
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T AMMAN 05576

EXDIS

-E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, JO, IS, US
SUBJECT: JORDANIAN MINISTER OF INFORMATION ON MIDEAST
PEACE

SUMMARY: JORDANIAN MINISTER OF INFORMATION ADNAN ABU ODEH
SAYS THAT WITH ISRAELI NON-RESPONSE TO U. S. QUESTIONS ON
FUTURE WEST BANK STATUS, FOCUS NOW HAS TURNED TO NEXT
U. S. MOVES IN MIDEAST PEACE. TIME IS IMPORTANT AND MAJOR
QUESTIONS ARE: HOW LONG WILL U. S. WAIT TO PUT REAL PRES-
SURE ON ISRAEL; AND HOW LONG SADAT CAN HOLD WITH NO REAL
MOVEMENT IN NEGOTIATIONS. ABU ODEH SKEPTICAL THAT ANY
KAMEL/DAYAN MEETING, EVEN UNDER U. S. AUSPICES, CAN PRO-
DUCE ADEQUATE RESULTS GIVEN ABSENCE OF PRE-AGREED SET OF
PRINCIPLES. ABU ODEH SAYS SOVIETS TOLD HIM THEY BELIEVE
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U. S. IS ENCOURAGING SADAT TO MAKE A SEPARATE PEACE WITH
ISRAEL. END SUMMARY.

1. IN DISCUSSION WITH CHARGE AND POLOFF JUNE 25, JORDANIAN
MINISTER OF INFORMATION ADNAN ABU ODEH, ON PERSONAL BASIS,
COMMENTED ON CURRENT STATE OF PEACE PROCESS. WITH IN-
ADEQUATE ISRAELI RESPONSE TO U. S. QUESTIONS, ABU ODEH

SAID GENERAL JORDANIAN PUBLIC REACTION IS TO DISMISS ISRAELIS AS TOTALLY INTRANSIGENT AND LOOK TO THE U. S. TO SAVE BOTH SADAT AND THE PEACE EFFORT. MAJOR QUESTIONS ARE: (1) HOW MUCH LONGER WILL U. S. CONTINUE TO WAIT TO PUT REAL PRESSURE ON ISRAEL; AND (2) HOW MUCH LONGER CAN SADAT HOLD, WITH NO BREAKTHROUGH IN PEACE PROCESS? ABU ODEH EXPRESSED PERSONAL OPINION THAT SPEEDY MOVEMENT IS ESSENTIAL TO KEEP MIDEAST STABILITY FROM DETERIORATING. HE ALSO SAID ARAB COMMENT GENERALLY WAS FOCUSING FRUSTRATION AGAINST U. S., AS U. S. SEEN AS ONLY PARTY CAPABLE OF INFLUENCING SITUATION.

3. ABU ODEH WAS SKEPTICAL THAT RUMORED KAMEL/DAYAN FONMIN LONDON MEETING UNDER U. S. AEGIS CAN ACHIEVE ANYTHING IN ABSENCE OF PRIOR AGREEMENT ON A SET OF PRINCIPLES, WHICH ISRAELI RESPONSE TO U. S. QUESTIONS AND OTHER ISRAELI POSITIONS SHOW IS FAR AWAY. ABU ODEH PERSONALLY FELT MUCH TIME HAS ALREADY BEEN LOST BECAUSE U. S. HAD MADE TACTICAL ERROR OF CALLING BEGIN PLAN A SUITABLE BASIS FOR PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. HE STUCK TO HIS POSITION OESPITE OUR ARGUMENTS TO CONTRARY.

4. DESPITE TALK OF EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL TO BE ADVANCED FOR WEST BANK AND GAZA, ABU ODEH SAID THERE REMAINS CONCERN THAT A SEPARATE EGYPTIAN/ISRAELI PEACE COULD BE END RESULT OF CURRENT PROCESS. HE SAID SOVIET DEPUTY FONMIN KORNIENKO
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ASSERTED TO HIM ON HIS RECENT VISIT TO USSR THAT SOVIETS BELIEVE THAT U. S. IS ENCOURAGING SADAT TO GO FOR SEPARATE PEACE WITH ISRAEL. WE COUNTERED THAT THIS IS CERTAINLY UNTRUE OF U. S. POSITION, THAT COMPREHENSIVE PEACE REMAINS OUR GOAL, AND THAT WE ARE DETERMINED TO PUSH NEGOTIATING PROCESS TOWARDS A COMPREHENSIVE PEACE.

5. IN RESPONSE TO OUR ASSURANCE THAT U. S. IS WELL AWARE OF NEED FOR FORWARD MOVEMENT ON PEACE FRONT AND OUR HOPE THAT OUR JORDANIAN FRIENDS WILL BE PATIENT DURING COMING PERIOD, ABU ODEH REPLIED THAT MODERATE ARABS HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE FOR THE MOMENT, BUT THAT SPEEDY POSITIVE MOVEMENT TOWARDS PEACE IS ESSENTIAL.

6. COMMENT: DESPITE THEIR INTEREST IN NOT ALLOWING U.S.-LED PEACE PROCESS TO DIE, AS ABU ODEH'S COMMENTS SUGGEST, WE SUSPECT THAT JORDANIANS WILL BE VERY SKEPTICAL OF ANY EGYPTIAN/ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS IN CURRENT CONDITIONS. GIVEN JORDANIAN PERCEPTIONS OF FRAGILITY OF SADAT'S POSITION AND OF ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE, JORDANIANS WILL WANT IT FIRMLY DEMONSTRATED THAT SUCH NEGOTIATIONS (1) ARE ACTUALLY REQUIRED TO ADVANCE COMPREHENSIVE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS AND (2)

THAT THEY ARE NOT IN FACT MOVING EITHER TOWARDS A SEPARATE
PEACE OR WILL RESULT IN A FINAL DISCREDITING OF SADAT .
SUDDARTH

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Message Attributes

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